

EXAMINER'S INTERVIEW

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on January 5, 2006, in which the claims, cited references, and the amendments presented herein were discussed. Although no agreement was reached, the Examiner's comments and suggestions are appreciated.

REMARKS

In the Office Action issued on October 7, 2005, the Examiner rejected all pending claims based on art considerations. The Applicant has fully considered the Office Action and submits this Reply and Amendment in response to the Examiner's rejections. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks made herein.

The Applicant has herein amended independent claims 1, 40, and 41 to clearly indicate that the activator includes a halide anion. The application as filed fully supports these amendments to the claims (see, for example, page 4, lines 28 through 35 and page 10, lines 24 through 30). Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced. Furthermore, the application as filed indicates that the use of a halide in the activator is particularly advantageous (see, for example, page 4, lines 28 through 35).

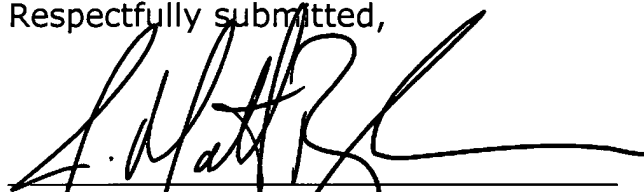
None of the cited references teach or suggest the use of a halide anion in combination with the other elements required by any of the independent claims. Thus, all claims, as amended herein define patentable subject matter. The rejections of the claims should be withdrawn. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application.

The Applicant has added new claims 46 through 48 simply to recite alternatives for the halide anion in dependent claim format. These claims are also fully supported by the application as filed (see, for example, page 10, lines 24 through 30).

CONCLUSION

The Applicant has fully responded to the rejections issued by the Examiner in the October 7, 2005 Office Action. All claims presented herein define patentable subject matter and should be recognized as such.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Matthew Buchanan', is written over a horizontal line.

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